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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Robert M. Brustowicz  
Serial No. : 10/606,554  
Filed : June 26, 2003  
For : "ON-DEMAND NEEDLE RETAINING AND LOCKING  
MECHANISM FOR USE IN INTRAVENOUS  
CATHETER ASSEMBLIES"  
Examiners : Melissa A. McCorkle & Nicholas D. Lucchesi  
Group Art Unit : 3763  
Attorney's Docket No. : CHD-006

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on Feb. 28, 2006.

Attorney for applicants: David Prashker

Signature: Manuel Lucchesi

Date: Feb. 28, 2006

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RESPONSE FILED PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the 1st Official Action mailed November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, as extended through March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, for the above-identified application, applicants hereby present their formal Amendment and Reply, which is as follows: